

## **IN THE CLAIMS AMEND**

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having two lateral outer sides;
- each of said lateral outer sides having a plurality of distally spaced-apart cavities therein in a pre-arranged orientation, each cavity embedding an individual shock-absorbing element;
- each of said individual shock-absorbing elements comprising at least one region with a raised, roughened texture that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck.

15. (Previously Amended) A blade as defined in claim 14 wherein each of said shock-absorbing elements is made of a deformable material.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Amended) A blade as defined in claim 14 wherein each of said shock-absorbing elements are bands of rubberized material.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A hockey stick blade or replacement blade for the game of ice hockey, said blade comprising:

- a blade portion having a unitary outer surface with two lateral outer sides,
- each of said lateral outer sides having at least one region with a raised, roughened texture integrally molded thereon that enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck; and
- at least one of said lateral outer sides additionally comprising a plurality of distally spaced-apart cavities in a pre-arranged orientation, each cavity embedding an individual shock-absorbing element, each of said individual shock absorbing elements comprising at least one region with a raised, roughened texture that further enhances friction between said blade portion and a puck.

20 – 21 (Previously Withdrawn)

22.-23. (Cancelled)